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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
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FM AMCONSUL WINNIPEG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2368
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS WINNIPEG 416

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 2 OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, CA
SUBJ: PREMIER LYON'S DIRECT APPROACH ON GARRISON CAUSES MINOR
POLITICAL STIR

REF: A. WINNIPEG 272. B. WINNIPEG 358. C. WINNIPEG 362

1. THE MANITOBA GOVERNMENT ON AUGUST 30 ISSUED A PRESS RELEASE
STATING THAT THE LETTER WRITTEN BY PREMIER STERLING LYON TO
PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS LAST JUNE CONCERNING
THE GARRISON DIVERSION PROJECT PLAYED A USEFUL ROLL IN PROTECTING
MANITOBA'S INTERESTS. MANITOBA ENVIRONMENT MINISTER BRIAN RANSON
WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE CANADIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
BELIEVES THE PREMIER'S LETTER CLEARLY PLAYED A ROLE IN PERSUADING
THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE TO INSERT A
PROVISO IN ITS REPORT THAT FUNDS FOR THE PROJECT WOULD NOT BE
USED IN WAYS WHICH COULD AFFECT CANADIAN WATERS OR INVALIDATE
PREVIOUS U.S. ASSURANCES. MR. RANSOM ALSO REITERATED MANITOBA'S
POSITION THAT ALL RETURN FLOWS FROM THE PROJECT SHOULD ENTER THE
MISSOURI RIVER BASIN.

2. THE PRESS RELEASE AND MR RANSOM'S REMARKS ELICITED AN
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IMMEDIATE BROADSIDE FROM MLA AND FORMER NDP ENVIRONMENT MINISTER
SIDNEY GREEN. "TO SUGGEST A LETTER FROM MR. LYON TO CONGRESS
HAD SUCH AN EFFECT IS SO LUDICROUS AS TO BE UNWORTHY OF COMMENT,"
SAID GREEN. COMMENT HE DID, HOWEVER, TERMING MR. RANSOM'S
REMARKS "SELF-SERVING AND MEANINGLESS STATEMENTS ... SELF-
CONGRATULATORY AND STUPID". MR GREEN MAINTAINED THAT THE
CHANGES MADE IN THE SENATE REPORT WERE SIMPLY CONSISTENT WITH THE

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IJC'S JANUARY, 1977 REPORT.

3. CONOFF SPOKE WITH MINISTER RANSOM AND, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT REVEAL HIS SPECIFIC EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SOURCES, HE DID CONFIRM THAT HIS CONTACTS WITH THAT MINISTRY CORROBORATED THE USEFULNESS OF PREMIER LYON'S DIRECT APPROACH.

4. ON ANOTHER MATTER (REFS B AND C), MR. RANSOM ALSO CONFIRMED THAT PREMIER LYON HAD RECEIVED A LETTER FROM NORTH DAKOTA STATE SENATOR S.F. HOFFNER SAYING THAT HE WAS PROPOSING TO N.D. GOVERNOR LINK THAT NORTH DAKOTA WRITE MANITOBA TO PARTICIPATE IN JOINT DISCUSSIONS ON GARRISON. MR. RANSOM SAID PREMIER LYON HAS NOT RESPONDED TO SENATOR HOFFNER, HE WILL AWAIT AN INIATIVE FROM GOVERNOR LINK. MR. RANSOM WHO NOTED THAT HE WOULD BE SEEING GOVERNOR LINK AT AN INTERNATIONAL PEACE GARDEN CEREMONY ON SEPTEMBER 9 AND BELIEVES GARRISON MIGHT COME UP IF THEY HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK AT ANY LENGTH.
CARPENTER

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